

Agency 55 - Natural Resources Commission

Statutory Authority:

The Natural Resources Commission was created in 1937 as the Soil & Water Conservation Committee. Its duties and authorities are outlined in Chapter 2, Article 15; Chapter 31, Article 10; and Chapter 46, Article 14. The agency has also adopted rules and regulations governing its various programs and copies are on file with the Revisor of Regulations.

Vision Statement:

The Vision of the Natural Resources Commission is to:

"Anticipate the future while contributing to a long-term plan to manage the natural resources of the State for current and future generations."

Mission Statement:

The Mission of the Natural Resources Commission is to:

"Formulate and carry out forward-looking plans and programs through a cooperative process that will provide for the long-term protection of the State's natural resources while ensuring that major economic and social impacts are fully considered."

Goals:

The goals of the Natural Resources Commission are to:

1. Promote and actively participate in the long-term management of the natural resources of the state.
2. Provide information and recommendations to the Governor and Legislature on natural resource policy issues.
3. Provide technical and financial assistance to local governments and individuals to assist with the management of soil and water resources.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY98	Approp FY99	Request FY00	Recom FY00	Request FY01	Recom FY01
General Fund	8,019,923	9,194,746	9,804,166	9,284,433	9,337,584	9,123,558
Cash Fund	2,748,156	3,113,000	3,113,000	3,116,505	3,113,000	3,120,633
Federal Fund	64,110	149,000	149,000	151,536	149,000	154,862
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	10,832,189	12,456,746	13,066,166	12,552,474	12,599,584	12,399,053

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Program 044 - Departmental Administration

Program Objectives:

The purpose and function of this program is to provide for the overall internal management and supervision of the agency; record keeping; personnel recruitment and supervision; promulgation of policy and regulations; provision of supporting administrative services; the operation of the Commission; and the provision of legal services for all of the various functions of the agency.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY98	Approp FY99	Request FY00	Recom FY00	Request FY01	Recom FY01
General Fund	359,541	374,084	406,562	0	408,280	0
Cash Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	359,541	374,084	406,562	0	408,280	0

Performance Measures:

No performance measures are presented for the administrative program.

Governor's Recommendation Includes:

The Governor's recommendation consolidates funding for Program 044 - Departmental Administration into Program 311 - Natural Resources Commission.

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Program 303 - Small Watersheds Flood Control Fund

Program Objectives:

1. Maintain the asset value of the Fund (cash and real estate) at a minimum of one million.
2. Make funds available for sponsors in order to expedite the construction of cost effective flood control projects.
3. Assist project sponsors in their utilization of the fund and management of lands.
4. Sell lands acquired in fee title on a timely basis to maximize the revolving nature of the fund.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY98	Approp FY99	Request FY00	Recom FY00	Request FY01	Recom FY01
General Fund	10,136	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000
Cash Fund	163,045	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	173,181	700,000	700,000	700,000	700,000	700,000

Performance Measures:

The objective of the program is to provide financial assistance to local units of government in the procurement of lands, easements and rights-of-way that are needed for construction of Commission approved flood control projects. Secondary objectives are to assist in accelerating the watershed planning process and to assist sponsors in all aspects of land rights acquisition and land management. The Commission has been assigned, by law, the responsibility for flood control programs, and the financial assistance provided to local sponsors for land rights acquisition under this program is an integral part of the total flood control program.

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Program 304 - Soil & Water Conservation Fund

Program Objectives:

The goal of this program is to preserve the productive capacity of the State's land and water resource base through assistance to private landowners for the installation of soil and water conservation practices.

A more specific goal is to operate the fund in a manner that best utilizes the funds available to achieve the highest level of on the land conservation. A special appropriation of \$500,000 was made to this fund for the 1999 and 2000 fiscal years to cost-share on water meters to be installed on irrigation wells in the Republican River alluvium. Meeting the requirements of that legislation and achieving full operation of those provisions in the current year is a specific goal.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY98	Approp FY99	Request FY00	Recom FY00	Request FY01	Recom FY01
General Fund	3,330,585	3,954,147	3,954,147	3,954,147	3,954,147	3,954,147
Cash Fund	0	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	3,330,585	3,959,147	3,959,147	3,959,147	3,959,147	3,959,147

Performance Measures:

Description	FY98 Actual	FY99 Current	FY00 Request	FY01 Request
Appropriation	3,454,147	3,954,147	3,954,147	3,954,147
Expenditure	3,330,585	3,954,147	3,954,147	3,954,147
claims paid	2,479	2,500	2,500	2,500
Feet of Terraces	2,077,860	2,100,000	2,100,000	2,100,000
Feet of terrace outlets	315,875	320,000	320,000	320,000
Dams	50	50	50	50
Grade structures	24	25	25	25
Reuse pits	7	10	10	10
Diversions	74	75	75	75
Acres of waterways	558	550	550	550
Water control basins	40	40	40	40
Dugouts	40	40	40	40
Acres of grass seeding	4,745	4,800	4,800	4,800
Acres of Windbreaks	2,824	2,800	2,800	2,800
# of planned grazing systems	254	250	250	250
Acres of grazing systems	196,408	200,000	200,000	200,000
# of irrig water mgt. systems	180	200	200	200
Acres of Irrig Mgt.	21,023	24,000	24,000	24,000
Rep Basin Water Meters	0	1,000	1,000	1,000

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Program 306 - Water Well Decommissioning Fund

Program Objectives:

To provide financial assistance to landowners to plug or "decommission" water wells that are no longer in use so that those wells cannot serve as a conduit for contaminants to enter the groundwater aquifer or so that the well cannot be a safety hazard.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY98	Approp FY99	Request FY00	Recom FY00	Request FY01	Recom FY01
General Fund	93,483	99,000	99,000	99,000	99,000	99,000
Cash Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	93,483	99,000	99,000	99,000	99,000	99,000

Performance Measures:

The only performance measure is the number of water wells decommissioned.

Description	FY98 Actual	FY99 Current	FY00 Request	FY01 Request
# of wells decommissioned	708	700	700	700

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Program 307 - Resources Development Fund

Program Objectives:

The Nebraska Resources Development Fund was created in 1974 to assist in the development and wise use of Nebraska's land and water resources. Funds are used to make grants and/or loans to political subdivisions for projects that provide land and water resource benefits to the citizens of Nebraska. Project applicants must demonstrate technical, economic, and financial feasibility and environmental acceptance. Project grants can be up to 75% of a project's eligible costs and loans can be up to 90%.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY98	Approp FY99	Request FY00	Recom FY00	Request FY01	Recom FY01
General Fund	2,268,510	2,170,000	2,420,000	2,170,000	2,420,000	2,170,000
Cash Fund	10,210	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	2,278,720	2,220,000	2,470,000	2,220,000	2,470,000	2,220,000

Performance Measures:

The primary objectives for this program relate to the efficient operation of the fund and the use of state dollars to leverage other available funds for each project. This can best be achieved by keeping an even flow of new projects, projects under construction and projects nearing completion. Therefore, the performance measures presented relate to the number of projects in various stages and the dollars involved.

Description	FY98 Actual	FY99 Current	FY00 Request	FY01 Request
# of new applications	2	3	3	3
# of active projects	10	9	10	8
# of approved projects	57	58	60	62
NRDF cost of approved projects	50,158,000	52,703,000	54,897,000	55,897,000
Total cost of approved projects	103,000,000	108,000,000	111,000,000	113,000,000
# of completed projects	47	49	50	54

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Program 308 - Soil Survey Fund

Program Objectives:

The goal for this program is to maintain a modern and usable modern soil survey for the entire state and to make quality soils information available in a digital format. The dollars appropriated to the soil survey fund are, by law, passed through in their entirety to the Conservation and Survey Division of UNL, who is the cooperating soil survey agency in Nebraska. While the Conservation and Survey Division and the Natural Resources Conservation Service of USDA do the actual field soil survey work, the Commission is working cooperatively with these two agencies to digitize the soils information so that they can be available to users in a digital format.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY98	Approp FY99	Request FY00	Recom FY00	Request FY01	Recom FY01
General Fund	173,927	157,061	157,061	157,061	157,061	157,061
Cash Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	173,927	157,061	157,061	157,061	157,061	157,061

Performance Measures:

The field work for the modern soil surveys for all counties are now completed, with only Cherry, Sheridan and Garden counties yet to be published. Revised soil surveys to provide updated information to better complement today's technology and provide the best information to use with current applications are being completed on a priority basis. Sarpy and Gage counties are being completed now and Kimball, Pawnee, Deuel, and Douglas counties are in progress. Hall county has also been completed, but that survey work is being expanded in that area to include all of the Central Platte Natural Resources District.

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Program 309 - Natural Resources Enhancement Fund

Program Objectives:

The Natural Resources Enhancement Fund was created to provide Natural Resources Districts with funds for water quality programs. The source of the funds is a one dollar per ton fee on commercial fertilizer sold in Nebraska and under current law the fee will lapse as of December 31, 2000. The Commission serves as the administrative body to pass the funds through to the NRDs.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY98	Approp FY99	Request FY00	Recom FY00	Request FY01	Recom FY01
General Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Fund	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000

Performance Measures:

Since this program merely serves to pass cash funds through to NRDs, there are no performance measures that the Commission would have that show any measure of performance.

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Program 310 - Planning & Review Process

Program Objectives:

The state water planning and review process was established by state law and is contained in Sec.2-1599 through 2-13,106. The requirements of that process requires that an annual report and plan of work be submitted to the Governor and Legislature each year and a copy of that report is appended to this request. The report includes five separate elements of the process and the goals and objectives of each are outlined below.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY98	Approp FY99	Request FY00	Recom FY00	Request FY01	Recom FY01
General Fund	186,032	230,235	230,360	0	230,360	0
Cash Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	186,032	230,235	230,360	0	230,360	0

Performance Measures:

The performance measures are best defined in terms of meeting the process schedules outlined in the annual report and plan of work.

Governor's Recommendation Includes:

The Governor's Recommendation consolidates funding for Program 310 - Planning and Review Process into Program 311 - Natural Resources Commission.

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Program 311 - Natural Resources Commission

Program Objectives:

The Governor's Recommendation consolidates Program 044-Department Administration, Program 310-Planning and Review Process, and Program 344-Soil and Water Conservation into the newly created Program 311-Natural Resources Commission. Refer to the individual program narratives for program objectives and performance measures.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY98	Approp FY99	Request FY00	Recom FY00	Request FY01	Recom FY01
General Fund	0	0	0	2,704,225	0	2,543,350
Cash Fund	0	0	0	61,505	0	65,633
Federal Fund	0	0	0	151,536	0	154,862
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	0	0	0	2,917,266	0	2,763,845

Performance Measures:

Governor's Recommendation Includes:

The Governor's Recommendation consolidates funding for Program 044 - Departmental Administration, Program 310 - Planning and Review Process, and Program 334 - Soil and Water Conservation into Program 311 - Natural Resources Commission.

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Program 334 - Soil & Water Conservation

Program Objectives:

This program includes a broad range of activities assigned to the Natural Resources Commission and involves the majority of the agency staff and its "non-fund" budget. The six sub-programs are: District Operations, Survey and Photogrammetry, Comprehensive Planning, Flood Plain Management, Natural Resources Data Bank, and Fund Operations.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY98	Approp FY99	Request FY00	Recom FY00	Request FY01	Recom FY01
General Fund	1,597,709	2,010,219	2,337,036	0	1,868,736	0
Cash Fund	74,901	58,000	58,000	0	58,000	0
Federal Fund	64,110	149,000	149,000	0	149,000	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	1,736,720	2,217,219	2,544,036	0	2,075,736	0

Performance Measures:

The significant short term goals of the Natural Resources Commission are to complete the DEM-DOQ project, complete the digitization of soil surveys to acceptable standards, participate in the Lower Platte River & Tributaries Study, provide technical support to the Platte River Coop Agreement process, enhance our floodplain assistance and planning activity, complete hydraulic surveys and mapping in the lower Platte River, continue and enhance network support, enhance data sharing and direct access capability, enhance our resource planning ability, and provide information and alternatives on water policy issues.

Governor's Recommendation Includes:

The Governor's Recommendation consolidates funding for Program 334 - Soil and Water Conservation into Program 311 - Natural Resources Commission.